OIPE JC88
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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial No. __________

Appn. Filed : _______

Applicant: Fred Soofer, Kaveh Soofer, and Kim Fong

Appn. Title: VEHICLE FAN SHROUD MADE INTEGRALLY WITH A COOLANT RESERVOIR

Examiner/GAU: __________________

Mailed: Oct. 11/2003
At: San Carlos, CA

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached is a completed Form PTO-1449 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon. Following are comments on references pursuant to Rule 98:

U.S. Patent No. 6,523,507 provides a fan shroud for an internal combustion engine that includes a snap-on detachable overflow bottle. A disadvantage of the design disclosed in the aforementioned patent is that it requires the use of additional snapping fasteners that can get loose under the effect of vibrations that normally occurs in the engine compartment when the vehicle is running. As a result, the coolant reservoir will be subject to vibrations that will generate a noise. Another disadvantage of the device is that the coolant is supplied to the coolant reservoir through a separate coolant supply tube that is inserted into the reservoir through the sealing unit. In other words, the arrangement requires the use of additional parts, such as tubes, seals, snapping elements, etc., is complicated in the manufacture, and costly in production and assembling.

U.S. Patent No. 5,971,062 discloses a fan shroud, which is made integrally with at least one chamber for storage of a liquid or with several chambers for storage of several liquids, which may be under pressure and used with a vehicle. A disadvantage of the arrangement shown in the above patent is that it has a very complicated construction, which is expensive to manufacture. The shroud is normally molded from a non-transparent material and therefore the level of the coolant in the coolant reservoir is presumably checked by opening the filling cap, which is inconvenient.

U.S. Patent 6,189,492 describes an automotive fan shroud that is molded integrally with two compartments, one for the coolant and another for windshield washing liquid. The compartments are closed from above by separate covers through which liquids are supplied into the respective containers. Since the compartments are molded from the same nontransparent material as the shroud, the level of the liquids in the compartments cannot be observed unless the covers are removed. Furthermore, the use of additional tubes and covers that require means for securing them in place makes the construction expensive in manufacture and assembling.

One typical radiator cooling system is shown in Mitsubishi Puck-ups & Montero Automotive Repair Manual by Larry Warren, et al. for Mitshubishi Pick-ups 1983 through 1996 and Mitsubishi Montero 1983 to 1993 issued by Haynes Publishing Group (page 3-4, Chapter 3). The system contains a coolant reservoir with a coolant supply tube and an overflow tube connected to the reservoir through the seals in a coolant filler cap. The reservoir has to be attached to an internal part of the vehicle body inside the engine compartment with the use of additional fasteners which can get lose under the effect of shocks and vibrations to which a vehicle is normally subject during running. Location of the coolant reservoir separate from the shroud and the need for attachment with fasteners increases the cost of manufacturing and assembling.

In all constructions of the fan shrouds integral with the coolant reservoir or separated from the reservoir the coolant filler tube is made separately from the reservoir and is connected to the reservoir through complicated seals and attachment elements.

Thus, none of the references mentioned above, discloses, as claimed in our independent Claim 1 with dependent Claims 2-12 and in our independent Claim 13 with dependent Claims 14-20, a vehicle fan shroud made integrally with a coolant reservoir which is made in the form of an open box and is welded to the flange portion with its open side so that the flange of the shroud closes the open part and forms a wall of the reservoir; the coolant supply nipple portion projecting from said top, a coolant supply tube located inside said coolant reservoir, and a drain pipe extended from said bottom portion are coaxial and molded integrally with the rest of the reservoir in the corner portion inside the reservoir wherein the coolant supply tube extends to the lever below the lower allowable level of the coolant in the reservoir but above the bottom portion of the reservoir.

Respectfully,

Applicants

Plastikon Industries, Inc.
688 Sandoval Way
Hayward, CA 94544

Oct. 6./03

ATTN: Fred Soofer
510-400-1115

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet ____ of ____

Complete if Known	
Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	FRed Soofer
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Document Number Number-Kind Code[2] *(if known)*	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US- 6,523,507	2003	G. E. Schmitz	
		US-		et. al.	
		US- 5,971,062	1999	Ch. Sadr, et. al.	
		US-			
		US- 6,189,492	2001	D. Brown	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Foreign Patent Document Country Code[3] - Number[4] - Kind Code[5] *(if known)*	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T[6]
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						☐

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND T : **Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet ___ of ___

Complete if Known	
Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.[1]	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T[2]
		Mitsubishi Pick-ups & Montero	
		Automotive Repair Manual	
		by Larry Warren, et-al.	
		Published by Haynes Publishing Group	
		Sparkford Nr Yeovil	
		Somerset BA22 7JJ England	
		(page 3-4, Chapter 3)	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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